RESEARCH HIGHLIGHT

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Socio-economic Series 09-014

2001 Participation and Activity Limitation Survey: Issue 1—Profile of the Housing Conditions of Canadians Aged 15 Years and Older with a Mobility and/or an Agility Disability

INTRODUCTION

This *Research Highlight* is the second produced through a CMHC research project that examined the housing conditions and characteristics of Canadians with disabilities.

This highlight begins with some general characteristics of the population with disabilities who are aged 15 years and older, and continues with a detailed profile of those who report having a mobility and/or an agility disability. Data used in this highlight are from the 2001 Participation and Activity Limitation Survey (2001 PALS). PALS is Canada's principal national survey focusing on people with disabilities. It provides information on the prevalence and severity of certain types of disability, on the use of and unmet need for supports, and on participation in various activities.

DEFINITIONS

Population with Disabilities Examined in this Highlight

This highlight examines the population 15 years of age and older only. The data presented here and in subsequent highlights will differ from the first issue in this series which was based on the 2001 Census because of some key differences between the 2001 Census and 2001 PALS with respect to identifying people with disabilities. The 2001 PALS identifies an estimated 945,000 fewer people aged 15 years and older with a disability than did the 2001 Census. This is because some individuals who responded "Yes" to the Census disability questions responded "No" to the more detailed questions on the 2001 PALS related to specific types of disabilities. It is also due to differences in the geographic coverage—the 2001 Census includes the people living in the territories and in First Nations communities but these areas and their populations are excluded from the 2001 PALS.

Disability in the 2001 PALS

The 2001 PALS asks about specific domains of functioning in which one may experience ongoing difficulties doing activities and identifies 10 specific types of disabilities (as well as an "unknown"[1] category):

- Mobility
- Agility
- Seeing
- Hearing
- Speaking/communicating
- Developmental
- Learning
- Memory
- Emotional/psychological
- Pain

[1] People who answer "Yes" to one of the questions on general limitations and "No" to the specific disability-type questions are classified as having "nature of disability unknown."

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Mobility and Agility Disability

Of the 2,692,800 people aged 15 and older with a mobility and/or an agility disability, 72% or 1,952,000 report having both disabilities. For the purposes of this analysis, those with a mobility and/or agility disability have been combined into one group referred to as "mobility/agility disability" for this series of Highlights.

In the 2001 PALS, an individual with a mobility disability is someone who has difficulty with at least one of:

- walking half a kilometre
- walking up and down a flight of stairs (about 12 steps) without resting
- moving from one room to another
- carrying an object of 5 kg (10 pounds) for 10 metres (30 feet)
- standing for long periods

In the 2001 PALS, an individual with an agility disability is someone who has difficulty with at least one of:

- bending
- dressing or undressing her/himself
- getting into and out of bed
- cutting her/his toenails
- using fingers to grasp/handle objects
- reaching in any direction (for example, above her/his head)
- cutting her/his food

Core Housing Need

Households[2] are considered to be in core housing need if they do not live in and do not have sufficient income to access acceptable housing. The term "acceptable housing" refers to housing that is in adequate physical condition, of suitable size and affordable.

- Adequate dwellings are those reported by their residents as not requiring any major repairs.
- Suitable dwellings have enough bedrooms for the size and make-up of resident households, according to the National Occupancy Standard (NOS) requirements.[3]
- Affordable dwellings cost less than 30% of before-tax household income.[4]

A household is said to be in core housing need if its housing falls below at least one of the adequacy, suitability or affordability standards and it would have to spend 30% or more of its before-tax income to pay the median rent of alternative local housing.

When discussing core housing need, household data exclude farm, band and reserve households (for which shelter costs are not collected by the census). It also excludes households with shelter costs that equal or exceed their income, or incomes of zero or less.

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[2] Refers to all private households. People living in collective dwellings (see Statistics Canada, 2001 Census Dictionary, Cat. No. 92-378-XIE, pages 190-193) are excluded by definition.

[3] According to the NOS, enough bedrooms means one bedroom for each cohabitation adult couple; unattached household member 18 years of age and over; same-sex pair of children under age 18; and additional boy or girl in the family, unless there are two opposite sex siblings under 5 years of age, in which case they are expected to share a bedroom. A household of one individual can occupy a bachelor unit (i.e. a unit with no bedroom).

[4] Shelter costs include the following:

- For renters, rent and payments for electricity, fuel, water and other municipal services; and
- For owners, mortgage payments (principal and interest), property taxes, and any condominium fees, along with payments for electricity, fuel, water and other municipal services. Costs associated with maintenance and repairs are not considered part of shelter costs.

Income data collected by the 2001 Census refer to the calendar year preceding the Census, while shelter cost data are for 2001.

FINDINGS

General Characteristics of Persons with Disabilities Aged 15 Years and Older

Geography

There are 3,352,300 persons with disabilities who are 15 years and older, resulting in a national disability rate of 15% (see Table 1). There are significant variations among the provinces with Quebec recording the lowest rate at 10%[5] and Nova Scotia the highest at 20%.

Age and Gender

The rate of disability increases as age increases, and, in all age groups, the disability rate is higher among females than for males. The disability rate varies considerably by age group, from 4% for persons aged 15 to 24 years to 41% for people aged 65 years and older (see Table 2).

The age structure of the population with disabilities is very different from the population without disabilities. Over three quarters of persons aged 15 years and older (77%) who report a disability are over 44 years of age compared to

Table 1 Number of persons aged 15 years and older living in households, by disability status, in Canada and the provinces, 2001

	Persons aged 15 years and older			Disability rate
	Total Population[6]	without disabilities	with disabilities	
CANADA	22,608,200	19,255,900	3,352,300	14.8%
Newfoundland and Labrador	405,500	348,000	57,500	14.2%
Prince Edward Island	102,000	84,500	17,500	17.2%
Nova Scotia	714,000	569,700	144,300	20.2%
New Brunswick	575,400	477,900	97,500	16.9%
Quebec	5,631,400	5,071,300	560,100	9.9%
Ontario	8,748,000	7,334,100	1,413,900	16.2%
Manitoba	748,300	614,900	133,400	17.8%
Saskatchewan	595,100	485,000	110,100	18.5%
Alberta	2,078,800	1,758,600	320,200	15.4%
British Columbia	3,009,600	2,511,900	497,700	16.5%

NOTE:
Includes the population living in private non-farm, non-reserve households with household income greater than zero and the average shelter cost-to-income ratio (STIRs) less than 100%.
Source: 2001 PALS

[5] This lower rate in Quebec has been observed in all of the disability surveys conducted by Statistics Canada.

[6] Housing conditions cannot be assessed for households that report shelter costs that equal or exceed their income or households that have incomes of zero or less. An estimated 837,500 people aged 15 or older are excluded from the data.

Table 2 Number and per cent of persons aged 15 years and older living in households, by disability status, age group and sex, 2001

	Persons aged 15 years and older						Disability rate		
	without disabilities			with disabilities					
	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
15 and older	9,449,700	9,806,100	19,255,900	1,487,800	1,864,500	3,352,300	13.6%	16.0%	14.8%
15 - 24	1,815,000	1,750,800	3,565,800	73,000	75,000	148,000	3.9%	4.1%	4.0%
25 - 44	3,892,500	4,051,200	7,943,700	283,900	334,400	618,300	6.8%	7.6%	7.2%
45 - 64	2,819,800	2,885,700	5,705,500	541,400	621,300	1,162,700	16.1%	17.7%	16.9%
65 and older	922,400	1,118,500	2,040,900	589,500	833,700	1,423,200	39.0%	42.7%	41.1%

Source: 2001 PALS

40% of people 15 years or older without disabilities (see Figure 1). This difference in age structure is important to remember when comparing the social and economic characteristics of these two populations.

Living Arrangements

Persons with disabilities are less likely to be living in a family with children, and more likely to be living alone, than persons without disabilities. A total of 23% of persons with disabilities live in a family household comprised of a couple (married or living common law) with children, compared to 50% of persons without disabilities (see Table 3). The reverse is seen for persons living alone where 23% of persons with disabilities live alone compared to 10% of persons without disabilities.

Nature of Disabilities

The 2001 PALS includes three ways to look at disability characteristics: type(s) of disability that an individual reports, number of types of disabilities that an individual reports, and a severity measure that includes the nature and extent of the individual's disability across all the types of disabilities reported by the individual.

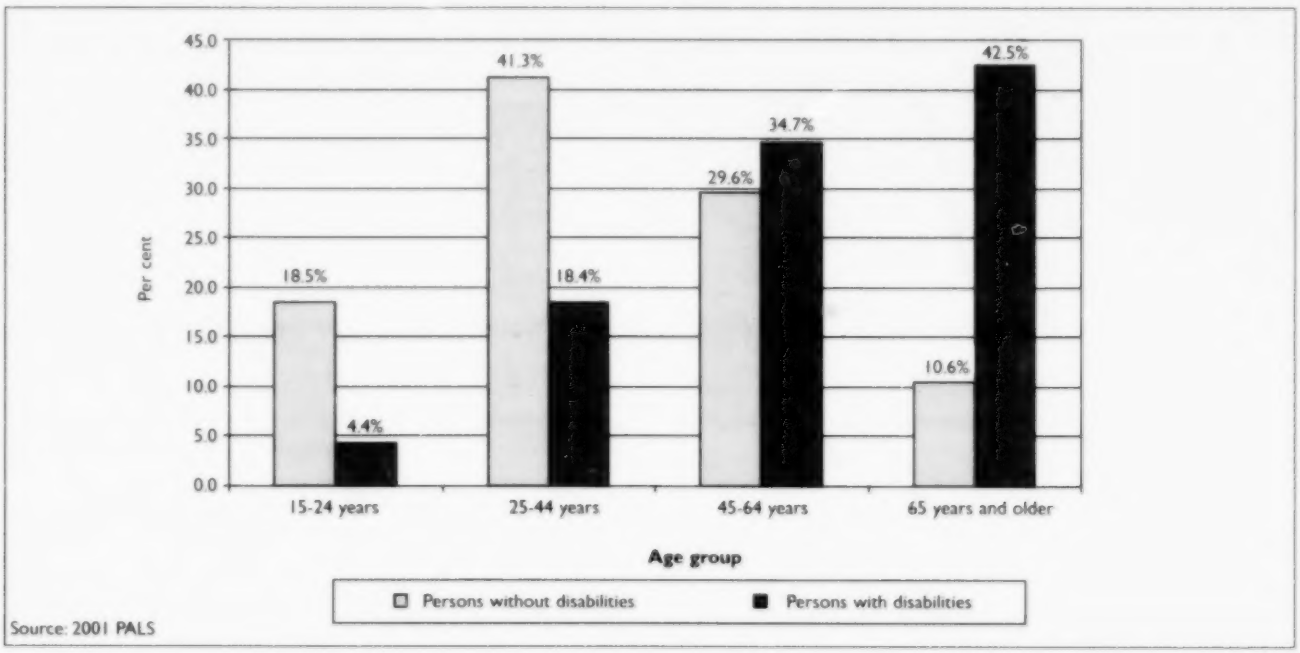

Figure 1 Percentage distribution of persons without and with disabilities aged 15 and older, by age group, 2001

Table 3 Number of persons aged 15 years and older living in households, by living arrangements and disability status, 2001

	Persons aged 15 years and older			
	without disabilities		with disabilities	
	Number	%	Number	%
All types of living arrangements	19,255,900	100.0	3,352,300	100.0
Living alone	2,012,500	10.5	779,400	23.3
Non family person, living with others	1,146,500	6.0	266,400	7.9
Lone parent family	1,808,300	9.4	349,500	10.4
Couple without children	4,748,700	24.7	1,181,200	35.2
Couple with children	9,539,900	49.5	775,800	23.1

Source: 2001 PALS

The three most commonly reported disabilities are mobility/agility, pain and hearing. A total of 2,692,800 people or 80% of those reporting a disability report either a mobility and/or an agility disability (see Table 4). Since there is considerable overlap between those who report either of these two disabilities, they have been combined into one group for the purposes of this analysis. Almost seven out of 10 persons with a disability (70% or 2,332,300) report a disability due to pain and close to one third (30%) report a hearing disability.

Most persons with disabilities (81%) report multiple disabilities. However, 19% or 636,400 individuals report only one type of disability and 37% or 1,226,500 persons report having two types of disabilities.

The severity of an individual's disability is assessed in the 2001 PALS based on the frequency and intensity of the limitations. For example, a person who has no difficulty walking and climbing stairs but who cannot stand in line for more than twenty minutes would have a mild mobility-related disability. A person who can move around only via a wheelchair would have a severe mobility-related disability. According to the 2001 PALS, 41% or 1,378,700 persons with disabilities have a severe or very severe disability. For 25% (838,800 individuals), the severity of disability is moderate, and for the remaining one-third (34% or 1,134,800), the severity of the disability is mild.

Table 4 Number and per cent of persons aged 15 years and older living in households, by type of disability, 2001

	Number	%
All types of disabilities	3,352,300	100.0
Hearing	1,013,700	30.2
Seeing	586,800	17.5
Speaking/Communicating	356,300	10.6
Mobility/agility[7]	2,692,800	80.3
Pain	2,332,300	69.6
Learning	442,000	13.2
Memory	414,900	12.4
Developmental	117,000	3.5
Psychological	517,700	15.4
Unknown	94,400	2.8

Source: 2001 PALS

[7] Of the 2,692,800 individuals who report having a mobility and/or agility disability, 72% or 1,952,000 report both types. For this reason, representatives from the community recommended that these two types of disabilities be combined for the purpose of this *Highlight* series.

Persons with a Mobility/Agility Disability Aged 15 and Older

Among persons with disabilities, an estimated 2,692,800 (or 80%) have a mobility/agility disability. While mobility/agility disabilities are the most commonly reported disability, the incidence varies among the ten provinces (see Table 5). Quebec shows the highest rate at 83% while Alberta and British Columbia have the lowest rates at 76% and 75% respectively.

Age and Gender

Persons with a mobility/agility disability are on average slightly older (at 61 years) than those with any type of disability (at 59 years). The average age of women (at 62 and 60 respectively) is slightly higher than men (at 60 and 58 respectively) for both populations.

The percentage of females with disabilities who report a mobility/agility disability is higher than for males (85% compared to 75% respectively) and this is true for all age groups (see Table 6). The percentage of people with a mobility/agility disability increases with age and this is true for both males and females.

Table 5 Number of persons aged 15 years and older with disabilities living in households, by type of disability in Canada and the provinces, 2001

	Persons aged 15 years and older		% with a mobility/ agility disability
	with any type of disability	with a mobility/agility disability	
CANADA	3,352,300	2,692,800	80.3
Newfoundland and Labrador	57,500	47,300	82.2
Prince Edward Island	17,500	13,600	78.0
Nova Scotia	144,300	116,400	80.7
New Brunswick	97,500	78,900	80.9
Quebec	560,100	465,700	83.1
Ontario	1,413,900	1,161,500	82.1
Manitoba	133,400	105,800	79.3
Saskatchewan	110,100	85,900	78.0
Alberta	320,200	242,100	75.6
British Columbia	497,700	375,500	75.4

Source: 2001 PALS

Table 6 Number of persons aged 15 years and older with disabilities living in households, by type of disability, sex and age group, 2001

		Persons aged 15 years and older		% with a mobility/ agility disability
		with any type of disability	with a mobility/agility disability	
Both sexes	15 years and older	3,352,300	2,692,800	80.3
	15 - 24 years	148,000	75,400	50.9
	25 - 44 years	618,300	431,000	69.7
	45 - 64 years	1,162,700	955,600	82.2
	65 years and older	1,423,200	1,230,900	86.5
Male	15 years and older	1,487,800	1,111,200	74.7
	15 - 24 years	73,000	34,500	47.3
	25 - 44 years	283,900	180,700	63.6
	45 - 64 years	541,400	419,400	77.5
	65 years and older	589,500	476,600	80.8
Female	15 years and older	1,864,500	1,581,500	84.8
	15 - 24 years	75,000	40,800	54.4
	25 - 44 years	334,400	250,300	74.9
	45 - 64 years	621,300	536,200	86.3
	65 years and older	833,700	754,300	90.5

Source: 2001 PALS

Presence of Other Types of Disabilities

People with a mobility/agility disability are very likely to have other types of disabilities, with the majority (77%) reporting a disability related to pain. Hearing and seeing disabilities are reported by 29% and 19% of people with a mobility/agility disability, respectively (see Table 7).

There are some significant differences in the nature of multiple disabilities when analysed by age group, particularly with learning and developmental disabilities. Overall 13% of people with a mobility/agility disability also report having a learning disability; however, among persons aged 15 to 24 years, this proportion is 45%. Similarly, while 3% of people with a mobility/agility disability also report having a developmental disability, the proportion is 23% among people aged 15 to 24 years.

Table 7 Distribution of persons aged 15 years and older with a mobility/agility disability, by type of other disability, 2001

Type of disability	Distribution of persons aged 15 years and older with a mobility/agility disability by other disability type	
	(#)	(%)
Mobility/agility	2,692,800	100.0
Seeing	520,800	19.3
Hearing	774,100	28.7
Speaking/communicating	295,700	11.0
Developmental	88,100	3.3
Learning	342,500	12.7
Psychological	423,000	15.7
Memory	374,900	13.9
Pain	2,063,400	76.6

Source: 2001 PALS

Table 8 Number of persons aged 15 years and older with disabilities living in households, by type of disability and severity of disability, 2001

Severity of disability	Persons aged 15 years and older			
	with any type of disability		with a mobility/agility disability	
	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)
Total	3,352,300	100.0	2,692,800	100.0
Mild	1,134,800	33.9	685,100	25.4
Moderate	838,800	25.0	699,100	26.0
Severe	903,500	27.0	844,100	31.3
Very severe	475,100	14.2	464,500	17.2

Source: 2001 PALS

Severity of Disability

People with a mobility/agility disability are more likely to have a severe or very severe disability than those reporting any type of disability, 49% compared to 41% respectively (see Table 8).

There are significant differences when the data is examined by age group, the most significant being among persons aged 15 to 24 years. In this young age group, 20% or 15,100 persons with a mobility/agility disability have a very severe disability compared to 11% for those with any type of disability.

Housing Characteristics of Persons with a Mobility/Agility Disability who are Living in a Household in Core Housing Need

At the Canada level, 18% of persons aged 15 years and older with a mobility/agility disability live in a household in core housing need, about twice the incidence of people without disabilities (9%) (see Table 9). The rate varies significantly among the ten provinces, with the lowest incidence in Saskatchewan at 11% and the highest in British Columbia at 22%. In some provinces, people with a mobility/agility disability are more than twice as likely to be living in a household in core housing need than persons without disabilities. The largest relative difference in core need between people with disabilities and people without disabilities occurs in Quebec (16% versus 7%) (see Table 9).

Table 9 Persons aged 15 years and older living in a household in core housing need, by disability status in Canada and the provinces, 2001

	Persons aged 15 years and older living in a household in core housing need						Ratio of persons with a mobility/agility disability to persons without disabilities
	with a mobility/agility disability		with any type of disability		without disabilities		
	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)	
	A	B	C	D	E	F	B/F
Canada	474,700	17.6	563,900	16.8	1,757,000	9.1	1.9
Newfoundland and Labrador	9,500	20.0	10,700	18.5	35,900	10.3	1.9
Prince Edward Island	2,000	14.6	2,500	14.5	6,600	7.8	1.9
Nova Scotia	21,700	18.7	25,100	17.4	55,000	9.6	1.9
New Brunswick	9,800	12.4	11,700	12.0	31,800	6.7	1.9
Quebec	74,500	16.0	89,200	15.9	376,300	7.4	2.2
Ontario	216,300	18.6	247,800	17.5	772,900	10.5	1.8
Manitoba	14,400	13.6	17,300	13.0	40,600	6.6	2.1
Saskatchewan	9,400	10.9	12,400	11.3	31,100	6.4	1.7
Alberta	35,100	14.5	45,100	14.1	124,800	7.1	2.0
British Columbia	82,100	21.8	102,000	20.5	282,100	11.2	1.9

Source: 2001 PALS

Urban/Rural

The probability of living in a household in core housing need is higher in urban areas than in rural areas, regardless of disability status. For people with a mobility/agility disability, the incidence of living in a household in core housing need is 19% in urban areas versus 13% in rural areas compared to 10% and 6% respectively for people without disabilities.

Tenure

There is a significant difference in the proportion of people living in a household in core housing need depending on whether the dwelling is owned or rented. For people with mobility/agility disabilities, about 10% of those who live in dwellings owned by a member of the family are in core housing need, as opposed to about one-third of those who live in rented accommodations. This difference holds regardless of disability status, although the magnitudes differ somewhat (see Table 10).

Table 10 Persons aged 15 years and older living in a household in core housing need, by disability status and tenure, 2001

	Persons aged 15 years and older living in a household in core housing need					
	with a mobility/agility disability		with any type of disability		without disabilities	
	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)
Canada – All dwellings	474,700	17.6	563,900	16.8	1,757,000	9.1
Owned by a member of the family	171,100	9.5	202,300	8.9	673,500	4.8
Rented	303,600	34.2	361,600	33.6	1,083,400	21.1

Source: 2001 PALS

Special Features for Access and Egress and Special Features within the Home

The PALS 2001 collected information on the types of special features that people with disabilities use or need to assist them. These include, for example, ramps and lifts that assist with entering and leaving their home as well as grab bars, bath lifts and widened hallways or doorways that facilitate mobility within the home.

The majority (79%) of people with a mobility/agility disability living in a household in core housing need indicate that they do not use or require any special features to assist them with their daily life activities. Of the remaining 21% (97,700) who use or require special features, 66,700 have all the features that they need, 22,400 do not have any of the features that they need and 8,600 have some of the features but need others (see Table 11).

Among the 31,000 persons with a mobility/agility disability living in core housing need with unmet needs for special features, an estimated 18,400 (59%) report that the unmet need is for grab bars or a bath lift in the bathroom, 9,600 (31%) report that it is for a ramp or street level entrance, and 6,800 (22%) report that it is for automatic or easy to open doors (see Table 12). Some individuals have more than one unmet need.

Table 11 Use of and need for special features for persons aged 15 years and older with mobility/agility disabilities living in a household in core housing need, 2001

	Persons aged 15 years and older that live in a household in core housing need who report having mobility/agility disabilities		
	Population	As % of those with mobility/agility disability	As % of those that use or need special features
	(#)	(%)	(%)
Total with mobility/agility disability	474,700	100.0	n.a.
Total that do not use or need special features	377,000	79.4	n.a.
Total that use or need special features	97,700	20.6	100.0
Use some special features and do not need any others	66,700	14.1	68.2
Use some special features and need others	8,600	1.8	8.8
Need some special features and have none	22,400	4.7	23.0

Table 12 Number and per cent of persons aged 15 years and older with a mobility/agility disability living in a household in core housing need with unmet needs for special features to access or egress or within the home, by type of feature, 2001

	Persons aged 15 years and older who are living in a household in core housing need with a mobility/agility disability	
	(#)	(%)**
Total population needing additional features	31,000	100.0
Ramps or street level entrances	9,600	31.0
Automatic or easy to open doors (includes lever handles)	6,800	21.9
Widened doorways or hallways	3,300	10.6
Elevator or lift device	6,300	20.3
Visual alarms or audio warning devices	1,300	4.2
Grab bars or a bath lift (in the bathroom)	18,400	59.4
Lowered counters in the kitchen	2,900	9.4

**Components add up to more than 100% since some individuals have more than one unmet need

Source: 2001 PALS

The incidence of unmet need for such special features is significantly greater among the younger population with mobility/agility disabilities. Over two thirds (69%) of persons aged 15 to 24 years, and over half (57%) of those aged 25 to 34 years have unmet needs for special features, compared to 38% of persons aged 45 to 64 years and 21% among seniors aged 65 years and older.

Demographic and Socio-economic Characteristics of Persons Aged 15 Years and Older with a Mobility/Agility Disability Living in a Household in Core Housing Need

Age and Gender

Regardless of disability status, females (at 12 %) are more likely to be living in a household in core housing need than males (at 9%). Females make up 66% of those with a mobility/agility disability living in a household in core housing need and 58% of the population without disabilities living in this housing condition.

As noted earlier, the population with a mobility/agility disability is older than the population with disabilities and the population without disabilities. This pattern is also seen for those living in a household in core need, with 41% of such persons with a mobility/agility disability being over the age of 65 compared to 12% of those without disabilities (see Table 13).

Males with mobility/agility disabilities living in a household in core need are more likely to be younger than females. Only 29% of such males are 65 and older, compared to 48% of such females.

Living Arrangements

Persons with a mobility/agility disability living in core housing need are more than twice as likely to live alone than those without disabilities. Of the 474,700 persons with a mobility/agility disability in core need, almost half (47%) live alone compared to 21% of those without disabilities (see Table 14).

Table 13 Persons aged 15 years and older living in a household in core housing need, by disability status, sex and age group, 2001

Sex	Age group	Persons aged 15 years and older living in a household in core housing need					
		with a mobility/agility disability		with any type of disability		without disabilities	
		(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)
Both sexes	15 years and older	474,700	100.0	563,900	100.0	1,757,000	100.0
	15 to 24	13,200	2.8	26,500	4.7	386,100	22.0
	25 to 44	89,800	18.9	120,700	21.4	755,200	43.0
	45 to 64	175,900	37.1	199,200	35.3	402,000	22.9
	65 and older	195,900	41.3	217,500	38.6	213,700	12.2
Males	15 years and older	168,300	100.0	211,800	100.0	745,100	100.0
	15 to 24	5,600	3.3	11,500	5.4	182,200	24.5
	25 to 44	37,800	22.5	51,900	24.5	317,200	42.6
	45 to 64	75,800	45.1	90,300	42.6	181,200	24.3
	65 and older	49,000	29.1	58,100	27.4	64,600	8.7
Females	15 years and older	306,500	100.0	352,000	100.0	1,011,800	100.0
	15 to 24	7,500	2.4	15,100	4.3	204,000	20.2
	25 to 44	51,900	16.9	68,700	19.5	438,000	43.3
	45 to 64	100,100	32.7	108,900	30.9	220,800	21.8
	65 and older	146,900	47.9	159,400	45.3	149,100	14.7

Source: 2001 PALS

Table 14 Persons aged 15 years and older living in a household in core housing need, by disability status and living arrangements, 2001

	Persons aged 15 years and older living in a household in core housing need					
	with a mobility/agility disability		with any type of disability		without disabilities	
	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)
All types of living arrangements	474,700	100.0	563,900	100.0	1,757,000	100.0
Living alone	223,000	47.0	261,900	46.4	370,300	21.1
Non family person, living with others	33,200	7.0	38,500	6.8	125,800	7.2
Lone parent family	70,600	14.9	89,300	15.8	407,400	23.2
Family without children	89,200	18.8	103,200	18.3	241,000	13.7
Family with children	58,800	12.4	70,900	12.6	612,300	34.8

Source: 2001 PALS

Table 15 Persons aged 15 years and older living in a household in core housing need, by disability status and immigrant status, 2001

Immigrant status	Persons aged 15 years and older living in a household in core housing need					
	with a mobility/agility disability		with any type of disability		without disabilities	
	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)
Canada – All immigrant status	474,700	100.0	563,900	100.0	1,757,000	100.0
Non-immigrant	351,300	74.0	426,500	75.6	1,106,900	63.0
Immigrant (1992 to 2001)	13,200	2.8	15,700	2.8	304,700	17.3
Immigrant before 1992	110,200	23.2	121,700	21.6	345,400	19.7

Source: 2001 PALS

Immigrant Status

Among those with a mobility/agility disability living in a household in core housing need, an estimated 26% or 123,400 are immigrants compared to 37% or 650,100 persons without disabilities. Only a small proportion (3%) of those with mobility/agility disability in core need immigrated in the ten years prior to the 2001 Census. (see Table 15).

Household Income

Regardless of disability status, the majority of persons living in core housing need have low incomes: 89% of persons with a mobility/agility disability are in households in the lowest quintile compared to 77% of those without disabilities, and 10% of individuals with a mobility/agility disability live in households in the second lowest (moderate income) quintile, compared to 22% of people without disabilities (see text box and Table 16).

For the purpose of this analysis, the pre-tax household income of Canadian households with at least one person aged 15 years and older were assessed and divided into five equally sized income groups or quintiles ranging from low-income to high-income.

High Income:	$96,936 or more
Upper Income:	$67,812 - 96,935
Middle Income:	$46,896 - $67,811
Moderate Income:	$27,418 - $46,895
Low Income:	Less than $27,418

Table 16 Persons aged 15 years and older living in a household in core housing need, by disability status and household income quintile, 2001

	Persons aged 15 years and older living in a household in core housing need					
	with a mobility/agility disability		with any type of disability		without disabilities	
	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)
Total	474,700	100.0	563,900	100.0	1,757,000	100.0
High, Upper, Middle ($46,896 or more)	*	*	*	*	27,200	1.5
Moderate ($27,418-$46,895)	48,500	10.2	59,000	10.5	383,100	21.8
Low (less than $27,418)	422,900	89.1	501,500	88.9	1,346,600	76.6

* Number suppressed because of sample size.
Source: 2001 PALS

Sources of Personal Income

Only 14% or 64,900 of those with a mobility/agility disability living in a household in core housing need, report wages and salaries as a source of personal income compared to almost half (48%) of persons without disabilities (see Table 17). Similarly, persons with a mobility/agility disability living in a household in core housing need are less likely to report self-employment as a source of income than persons without disabilities (3% compared to 7%). These differences can partially be attributed to the different age structure of the two populations.

It is not surprising that most individuals living in a household in core need report some income from government sources (Old Age Security, Guaranteed Income Supplement, benefits from Canada or Quebec Pension Plan, benefits from Employment Insurance, provincial income supplements and welfare payments). Almost all (95%) people with a mobility/agility disability living in a household in core need have income from government sources compared to 82% of persons without disabilities living in a household in core need.

Level of Education

People with disabilities living in core housing need are less likely to have completed high school and less likely to have gone to university. Among persons with a mobility/agility disability living in a household in core need, 56% have not completed high school compared to 40% of persons without disabilities. Only 9% of persons with a mobility/agility disability in core housing need report some university education compared to 21% of people without disabilities in core need (see Table 18).

The incidence of core housing need generally diminishes with higher levels of educational attainment. While the overall incidence of core housing need is 18% for people with a mobility/agility disability, it ranges from 20% for those who those who did not complete high school to 10% for those with at least a bachelor degree. Trade certificates and other non-university training also decrease the incidence of core housing need.

Table 17 Persons aged 15 years and older living in a household in core housing need, by disability status and sources of personal income, 2001

Sources of personal income	Persons aged 15 years and older living in a household in core housing need					
	with a mobility/agility disability		with any type of disability		without disabilities	
	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)
Canada – All sources of income	474,700	100.0	563,900	100.0	1,757,700	100.0
Wages and salaries	64,900	13.7	93,800	16.6	843,100	48.0
Income from self-employment	15,200	3.2	20,500	3.6	128,400	7.3
Income from Government	451,400	95.1	532,300	94.4	1,434,500	81.6
Other income, such as retirement pensions, dividends and interest on bonds, deposits and savings, alimony, child support, scholarships, etc.	22,100	4.7	28,500	5.1	121,100	6.9

Source: 2001 PALS

Table 18 Persons aged 15 years and older living in a household in core housing need, by disability status and highest level of education, 2001

Highest level of education	Persons aged 15 and older who are living in a household in core housing need					
	with a mobility/agility disability		Incidence of core housing need	without disabilities		Incidence of core housing need
	(#)	(%)	(%)	(#)	(%)	(%)
Canada - All levels of education	474,700	100.0	17.6	1,757,000	100.0	9.1
Less than high school graduation	263,300	55.5	19.9	708,000	40.3	13.2
Secondary school graduation certificate	56,100	11.8	17.9	247,400	14.1	8.7
Trades certificate or diploma	17,700	3.7	16.2	53,300	3.0	8.0
Other non-university	95,500	20.1	16.0	378,900	21.6	7.5
University but no degree	24,600	5.2	14.6	173,600	9.9	8.3
At least bachelor degree	17,500	3.7	9.5	195,800	11.1	6.0

Source: 2001 PALS

Health Status

More than half (53%) of persons with a mobility/agility disability living in a household in core housing need consider that their general health status is fair or poor, compared to 48% of persons with any disability (see Table 19).

Of those who give the "fair" response, 45% are aged 45 to 64 years, and 86% have three more types of disabilities in addition to their mobility/agility disability. A majority (68%) have a moderate or severe level of disability.

Of those who give the "poor" responses about half are aged 45 to 64 years, 80% have three more types of disabilities in addition to their mobility/agility disability, and 83% are classified as having a severe or very severe level of disability.

Table 19 Persons aged 15 years and older with disabilities living in a household in core housing need, by type of disability and general health status, 2001

General health status	Persons aged 15 and older who are living in a household in core housing need			
	with a mobility/agility disability		with any type of disability	
	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)
Canada – All levels of general health status	474,700	100.0	563,900	100.0
Excellent	12,500	2.6	21,300	3.8
Very good	65,800	13.9	92,000	16.3
Good	128,500	27.1	157,100	27.9
Fair	160,600	33.8	174,300	30.9
Poor	89,100	18.8	95,400	16.9
Not stated, refusal or don't know	18,300	3.9	23,900	4.2

Source: 2001 PALS

Local Transportation Issues

An estimated 201,000 individuals with a mobility/agility disability living in a household in core need travel locally using special bus services or local transportation such as buses, subways and taxis. Of these, 46,100 or 23% report some difficulty using these services. For nearly half (47%) the major issue is getting on or off the vehicles. For over one quarter (28%) of those using local transportation services, getting to or locating stops is a problem, and 22% report that the lack of 24 hour – 7 day a week service is the problem.

Among the 258,000 individuals with a mobility/agility disability living in a household in core housing need who did not use specialized bus services or local transportation, about 20,500 (8%) reported barriers to using these services. The two major issues reported were getting on or off the vehicles (53%) and getting to or locating stops (48%). A total of 27% reported that the lack of 24 hour – 7 day a week service was a problem.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Persons with Disabilities

General Characteristics

- 15% of Canadians aged 15 and older report some level of disability, with the lowest rate in Quebec (10%) and the highest in Nova Scotia (20%).
- The rate of disability increases as age increases, and the disability rate is higher in all groups for females than for males.
- 23% or 779,400 persons aged 15 and older with disabilities live alone.
- 80% or 2,692,800 persons aged 15 and older who report a disability report having a mobility and/or an agility disability.
- 41% or 1,378,600 persons aged 15 years and older with disabilities are classified as having severe or very severe level of disability.

Persons Aged 15 and Older with a Mobility/Agility Disability

General Characteristics

- Whereas 80% of Canadians with disabilities aged 15 years and older report having a mobility/agility disability, the proportion varies among the provinces with Quebec the highest at 83% and British Columbia the lowest at 75%.
- The proportion of persons aged 15 and older with a mobility/agility disability increases with age and this is true for both males and females.
- 77% of persons aged 15 years and older with a mobility/agility disability also report a pain disability.

Persons Aged 15 and Older with a Mobility/Agility Disability Living in a Household in Core Housing Need

Housing Characteristics

- 18% or 474,700 persons aged 15 years and older with a mobility/agility disability live in a household in core housing need. This proportion varies considerably among the provinces with the highest (22%) reported in British Columbia and the lowest in Saskatchewan (11%).
- A total of 34% of those with a mobility/agility disability who live in rented accommodation live in a household in core housing need compared to about 10% of those who live in a dwelling owned by a family member.
- Of the 97,700 persons aged 15 and older with a mobility/agility disability living in a household in core housing who require special features to enter or leave their residence or within their residence, 31,000 do not have the features they need.

Demographic and Socio-economic Characteristics

- Among males with a mobility and/or agility disability living in a household in core housing need the largest proportion (45%) are aged 45 to 64 years, whereas for females the largest proportion (48%) are aged 65 and older.
- 47% or 223,000 persons aged 15 and older with a mobility/agility disability who live in a household in core housing need live alone.
- 23% or 110,200 persons aged 15 and older with a mobility/agility disability who live in a household in core housing need are immigrants who arrived in Canada before 1992.
- The majority (89%) of persons aged 15 and older with a mobility/agility disability who live in a household in core housing need are in the lowest household income quintile (i.e., had a household before-tax income of less than $27,418) in 2000.
- 14% or 64,900 of persons aged 15 and older with a mobility/agility disability and who live in a household in core housing need report wages and salaries as a source of personal income.
- 67% or 319,400 persons aged 15 and older with a mobility/agility disability who live in a household in core housing need report their highest level of education as secondary school certificate or less.
- 34% (160,600) and 19% (89,100) of persons aged 15 and older with a mobility/agility disability who live in a household in core housing need report a health status of fair and poor, respectively.

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